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ABSTRACT

This book traces the history of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sections cover four time periods in the evolution of the Institute: the United States Indian Industrial School at Sante Fe, 1890-1932; the Santa Fe Indian School, 1930-62; and the Institute of American Indian Arts, 1962-70 and 1970-78. The United States Indian Industrial School at Santa Fe was opened to University of New Mexico students and to all Indian students in the Southwest in 1890. The school, which was part of the federal boarding school system, sought to provide vocational training that would allow young Indians to manage allotment lands they had received through the Dawes Act. Another purpose of boarding schools was to separate Indians from their families in hopes of breaking tribal ties and hastening acculturation. The Meriam Report of 1928, which evaluated Indian education, found among other deficiencies that the standardized curriculum based on White cultural values was ineffective in educating American Indian students. This report, along with widespread interest in Native American art, opened the door for the introduction of traditional Indian arts in the boarding school curriculum. In 1930 the school changed its name to the Santa Fe Indian School to reflect the school's change in focus. During the next 30 years, the school opened a new arts and crafts building, a painting studio, and initiated other improvements and additions. At the end of this period the arts program was floundering and a new direction was needed, thus in the fall of 1962 the official opening of the Institute of American Indian Arts took place. For the next 19 years, the Institute housed the nation's only all-Indian, all-arts training center. This center, which offered upper secondary and junior college programs, was the first to be controlled and supervised by the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board, was funded directly by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and was open to all Native Americans. Contains a bibliography and index. (LP)